

MARVEL

5

LGY#731

NORTH
RAMOS
OLAZABA
DELGADO

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

NOBODY EXPECTS THE
BLACK CAT



RATED T

RAMOS
2023
delgado



JOHNNY STORM
HUMAN TORCH



BEN GRIMM
THE THING



SUSAN RICHARDS
INVISIBLE WOMAN



REED RICHARDS
MISTER FANTASTIC

Fantastic Four

A brilliant scientist--his best friend--the woman he loves--and her hot-headed younger brother! Together, they braved the unknown terrors of outer space and were transformed by cosmic rays into something more than merely human! Now they are the **Fantastic Four**... and the world will never be the same again!

WRITER
RYAN NORTH

PENCILER
HUMBERTO RAMOS

INKER
VICTOR OLAZABA

COLORIST
EDGAR DELGADO

LETTERER
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

COVER ARTISTS
**HUMBERTO RAMOS &
EDGAR DELGADO**

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
INHYUK LEE; JENNY FRISON;
MARCO PALAZZI [DISNEY WHAT IF? HOMAGE];
MICHAEL CHO; SKOTTIE YOUNG

DESIGNER
CARLOS LAO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
LINDSEY COHICK

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
ANNALISE BISSA

EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT

EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.B. CEBULSKI

FANTASTIC FOUR CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



This is gonna be *great*. A fishin' trip in the *Negative Zone*?

It's like a dream come true!

Do we need Negative bait?

Wait, do Negative Zone fish vomit *up* worms, instead of gobbling them down, Reed??

You know full well they don't, Jonathan.



Have fun, guys.

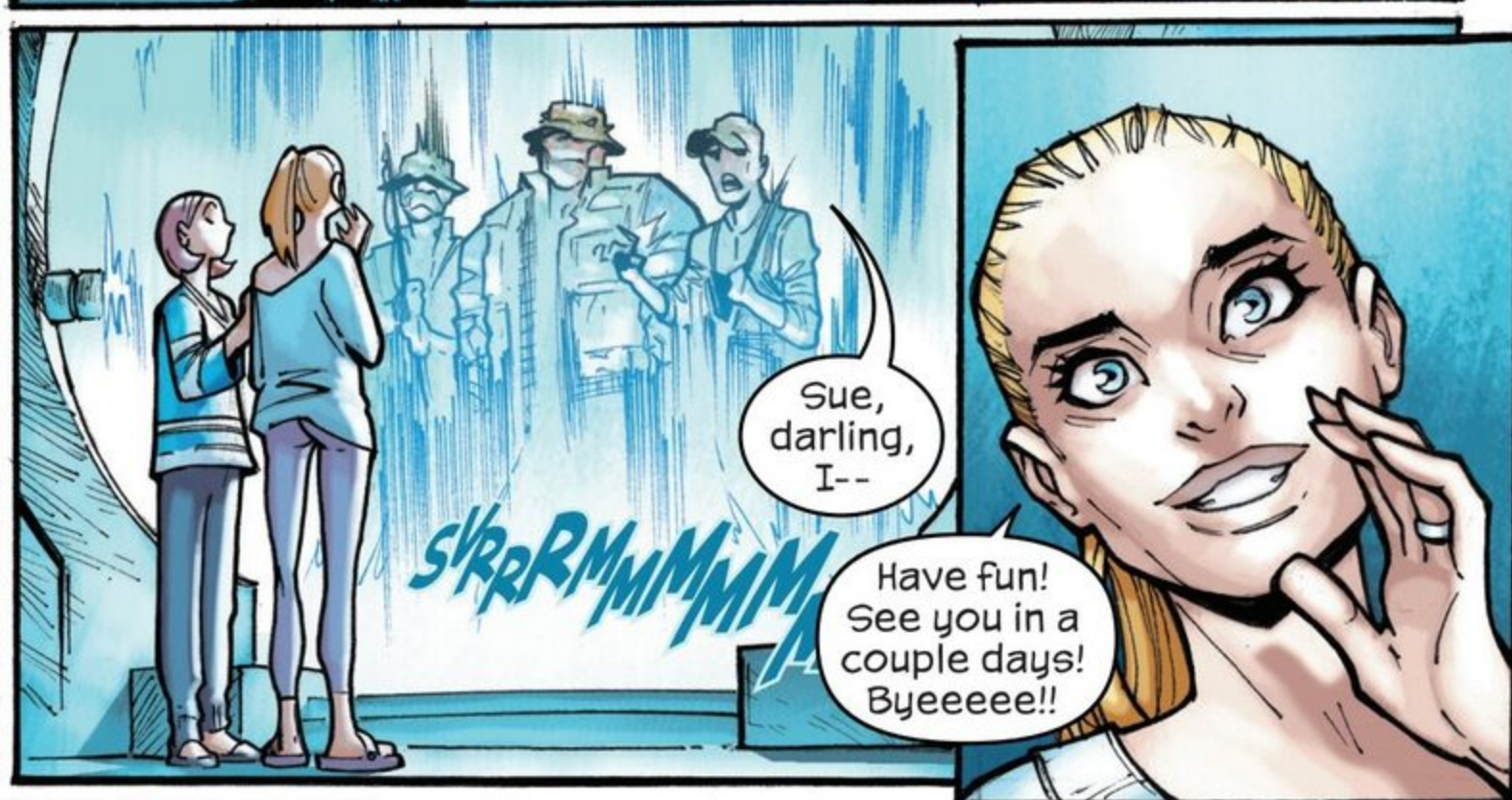
Yeah, enjoy your boys-only getaway! Us boring ol' *girls* will just stay home.



Ya both said it was okay! If it's not, we--

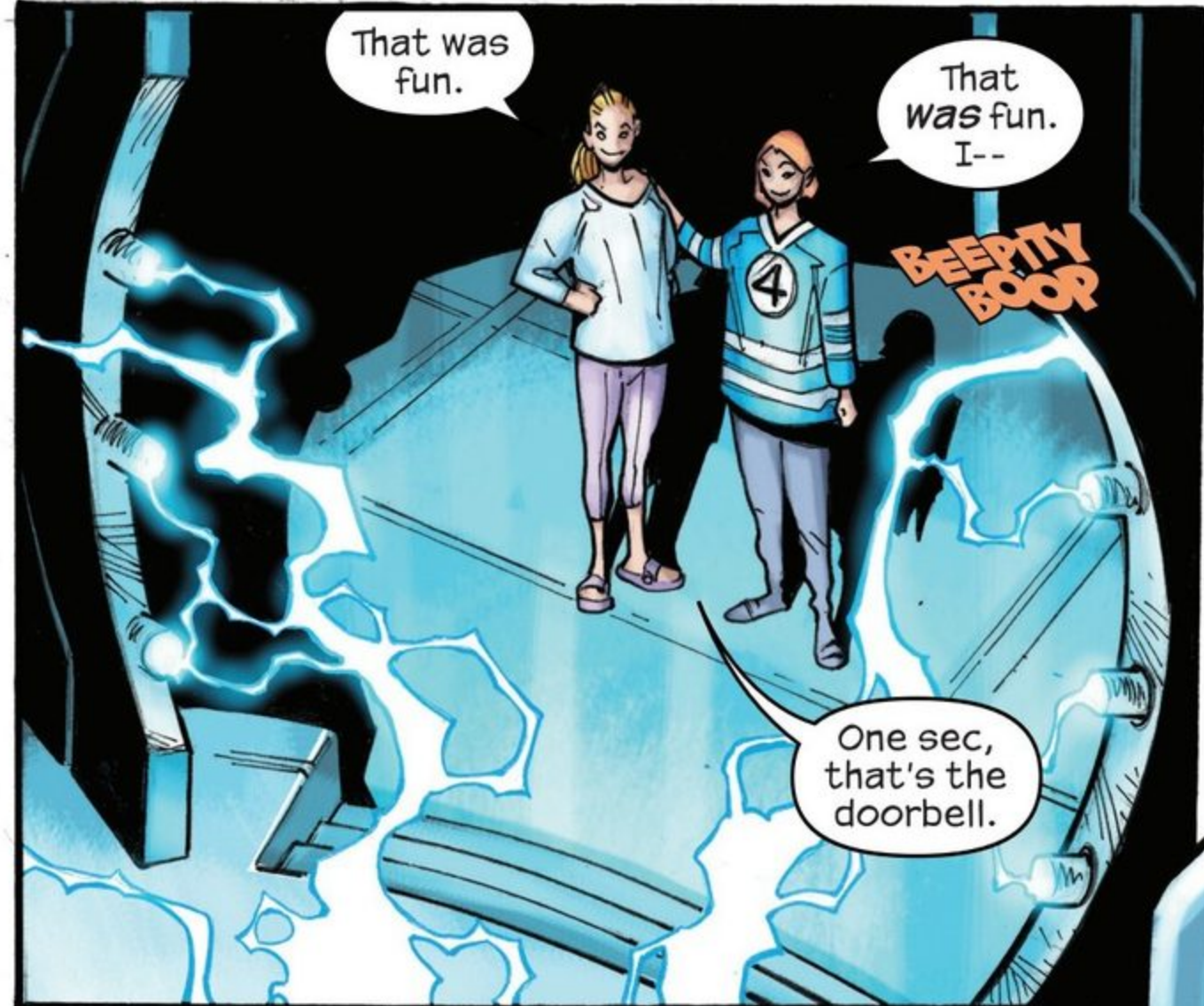
It's okay, Ben. We're just teasing you.

It's incredible we could even *find* something to tease about three fully grown men wanting a "no girls allowed" weekend.



Sue, darling, I--

Have fun! See you in a couple days! Byeeeeee!!

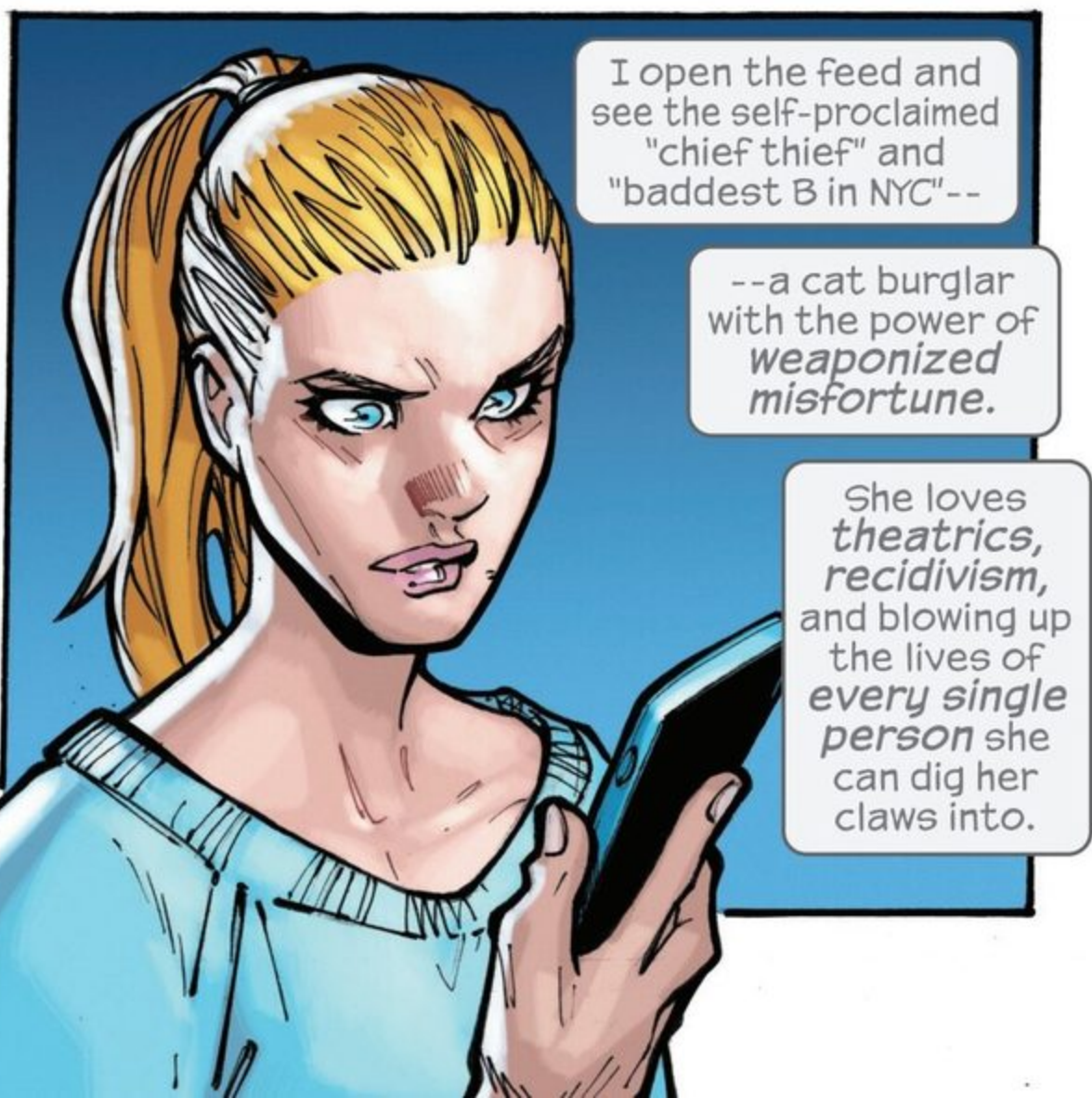


That was fun.

That *was* fun. I--

BEEPT BOOP

One sec, that's the doorbell.



I open the feed and see the self-proclaimed "chief thief" and "baddest B in NYC"--

--a cat burglar with the power of *weaponized misfortune*.

She loves *theatrics*, *recidivism*, and blowing up the lives of *every single person* she can dig her claws into.

FRONT DOOR

She's Ms. Felicia
Sara Hardy, A.K.A.
the *Black Cat*...

...and she's my *least*
favorite person in
New York City.

Heyyyyy,
Sue--listen,
please don't
hang up. I need
your help.

Spider-Man's
in *space*, and
I had nowhere
else to go...

...so when the
cops chased me,
I came here.

I'm in trouble,
Sue. **Big** trouble.
And if you don't help
me, they're taking
me down for
murder.

...Do you do
sanctuary or
something?

DOCTOR
SUSAN STORM IN:
"BAD BLOOD"

42ND STREET
DOORWAY ALERT
CAM 07



We do not do "sanctuary or something."

Thanks for nothing.

I'm pretty sure you could break out of here anytime you wanted.

Thanks, babe. I like you too.



Uh-huh.

Felicia, why am I here?



Look, I'm trying to do *better*, okay? New leaf and all that. But I need a *friend*--and *bail*.

No, you need a *lawyer*. And I'm not your friend.

I *have* a lawyer. That lawyer needs *evidence*--some *proof* that I'm *innocent*--and that's what I *don't* have.



Look--if you won't bail me out, can you find out what actually happened? Please, Sue. I don't *have* anyone else.

Felicia--

I know you're a good woman. A *great* woman.



She's flirting with me.

And I know there isn't anyone on *Earth* better at uncovering what's been hidden than Susan

GOSH-DARNED Storm.



And people call *me* transparent.

Look, I...

...I'll do *some* digging, okay? For *Spidey's* sake--not yours.

And Johnny's too. We've dated a bit. I don't know if you--

Just--just tell me *what* happened.



I have a safe-deposit box at the United Bank on 3rd, under an *assumed* name, which is *not* a crime--

It is.

--which *shouldn't* be a crime, and I needed some *documents*.

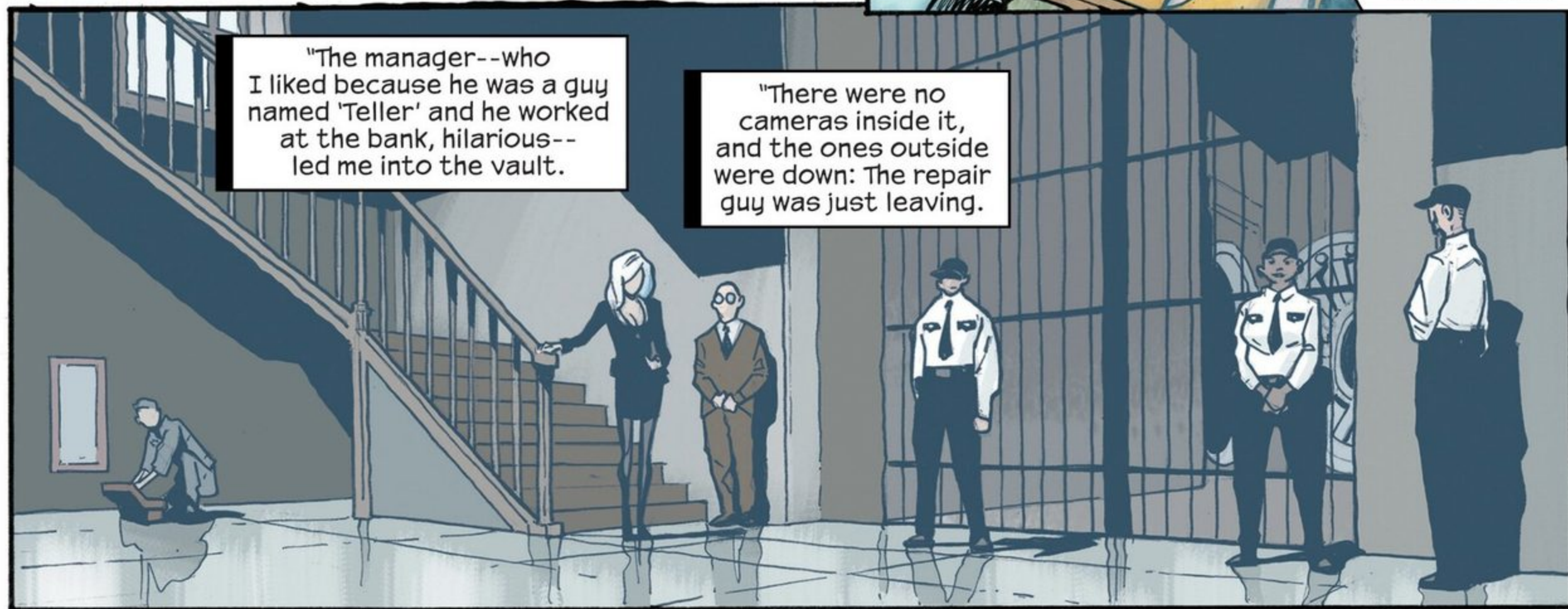


"Documents."



Yes, Sue. A girl like me, all alone in the big city, has to take *care* of herself.

You don't leave your *birth certificate* out on the kitchen counter, and neither do I.



"The manager--who I liked because he was a guy named 'Teller' and he worked at the bank, hilarious--led me into the vault.

"There were no cameras inside it, and the ones outside were down: The repair guy was just leaving.



"Teller told me to take my time and to put my box back when I was done. He was gonna wait for me at his desk, down the hall.

Thanks, Teller.

Just doing my job, Mrs. Marcini.



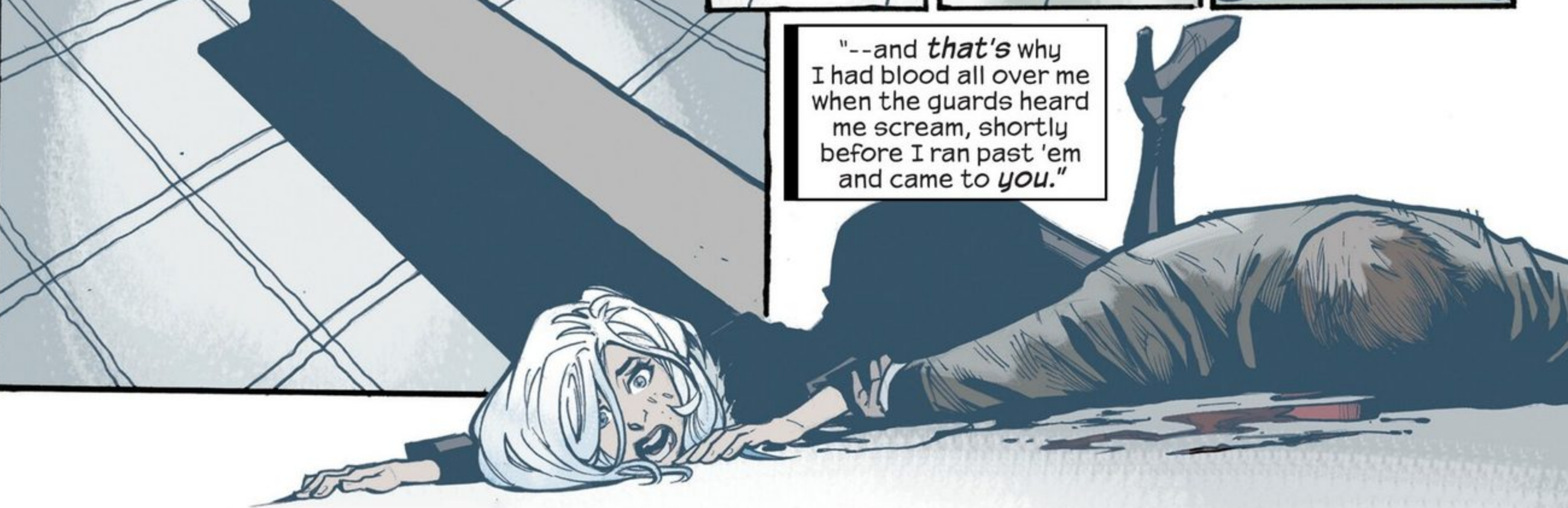
"So I took the photos, replaced the box, and left.



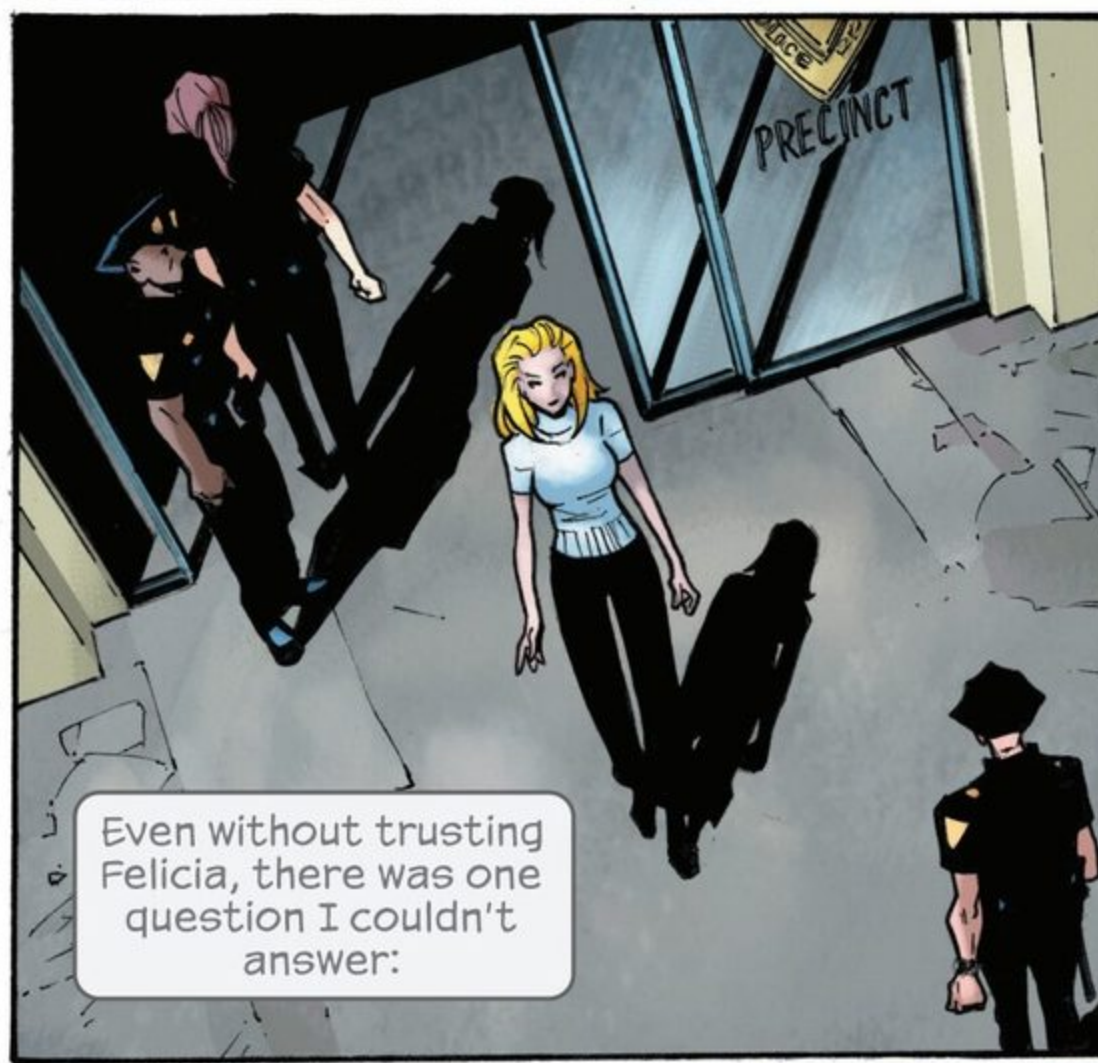
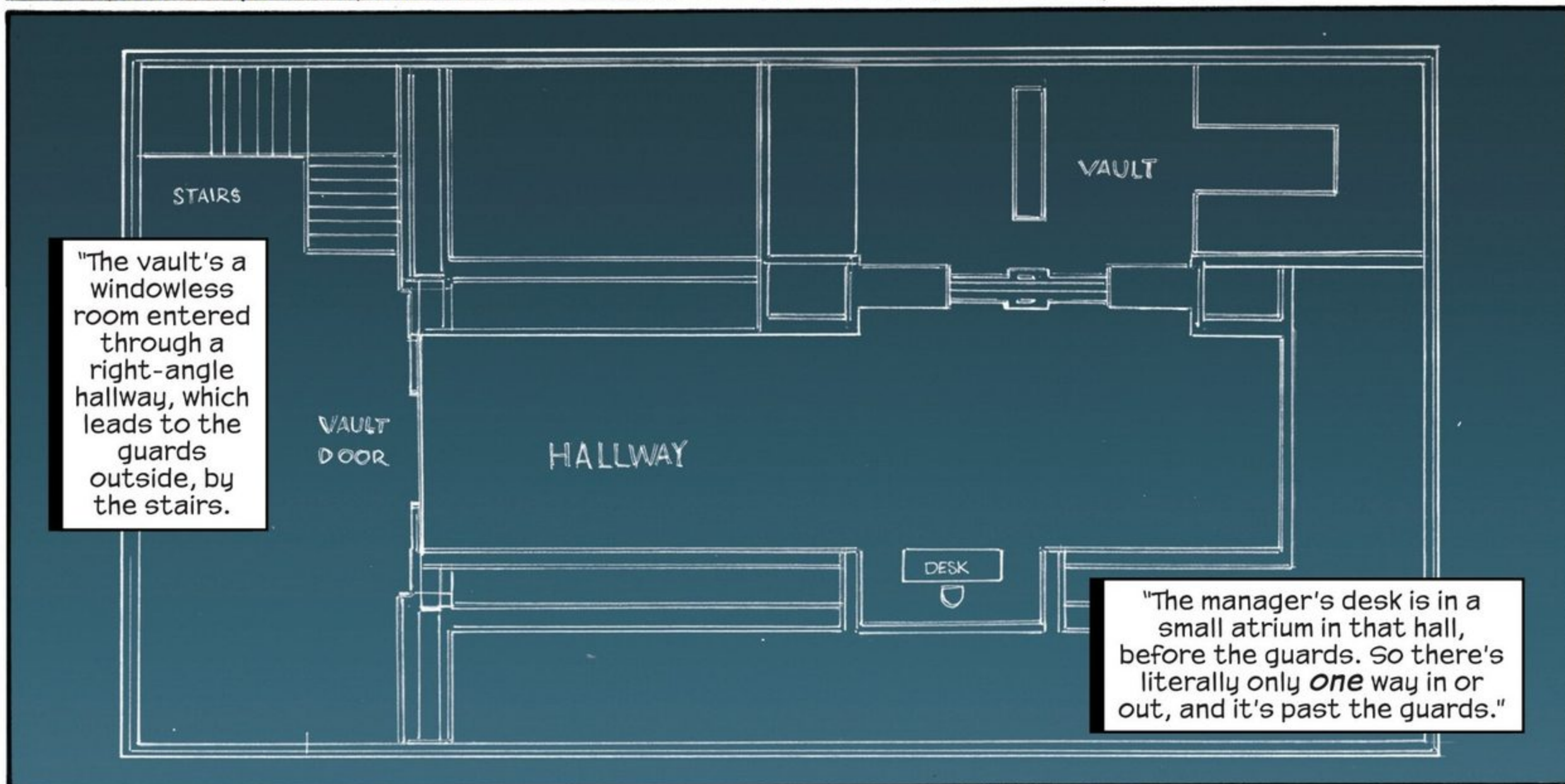
"It took five minutes, tops. I was on my phone as I walked down the hall--

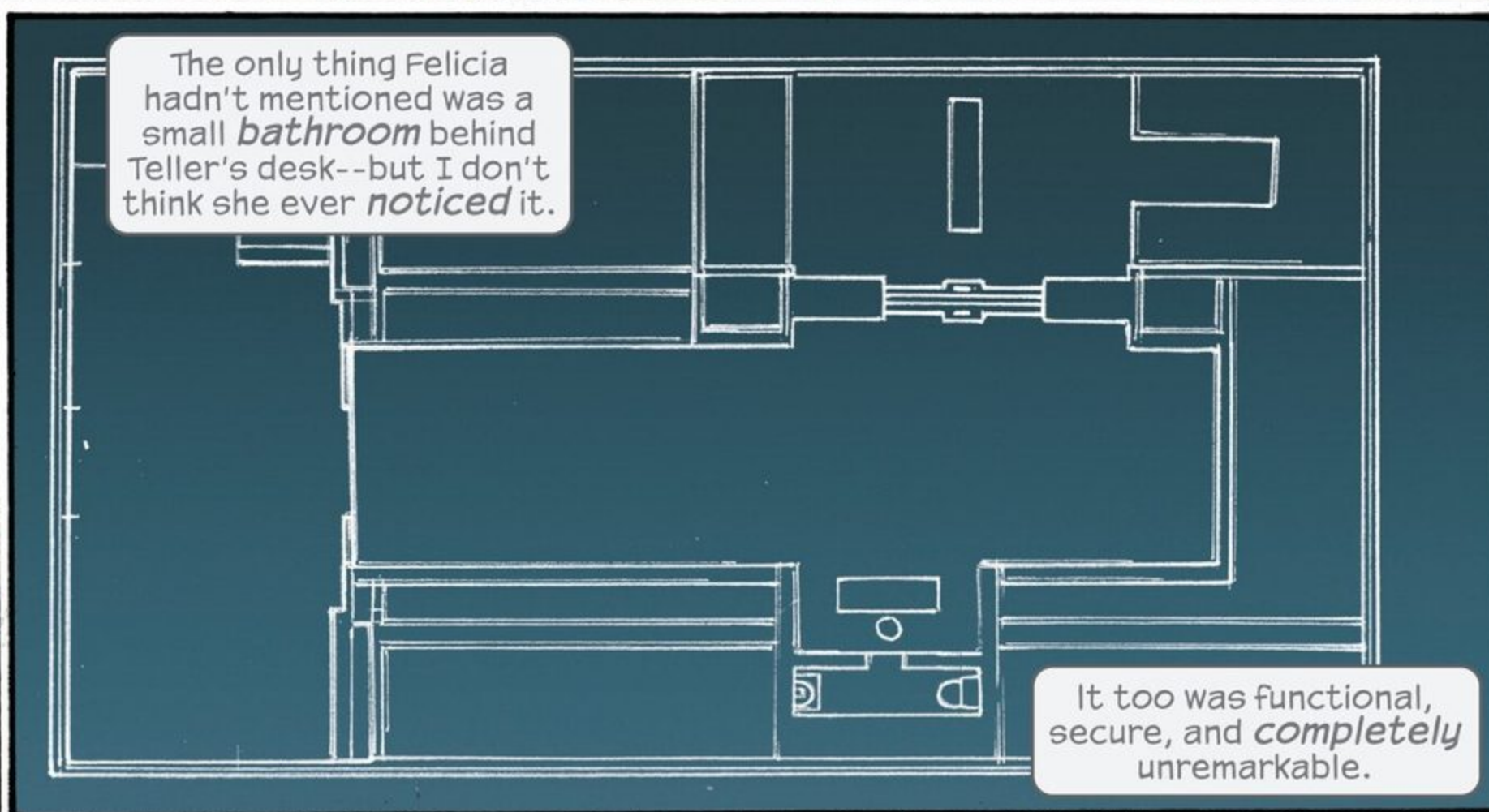
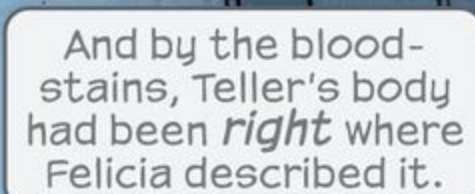


--which is why I didn't notice Teller's ruined body on the floor until I *tripped* over it--



--and *that's* why I had blood all over me when the guards heard me scream, shortly before I ran past 'em and came to *you*."







It did not, I think it's fair to say, go *particularly* well.

The guards all refused to talk to me, and when I told them *why* I was there, they questioned why I was carrying water for *Felicia Hardy*.



I was questioning it myself, honestly.

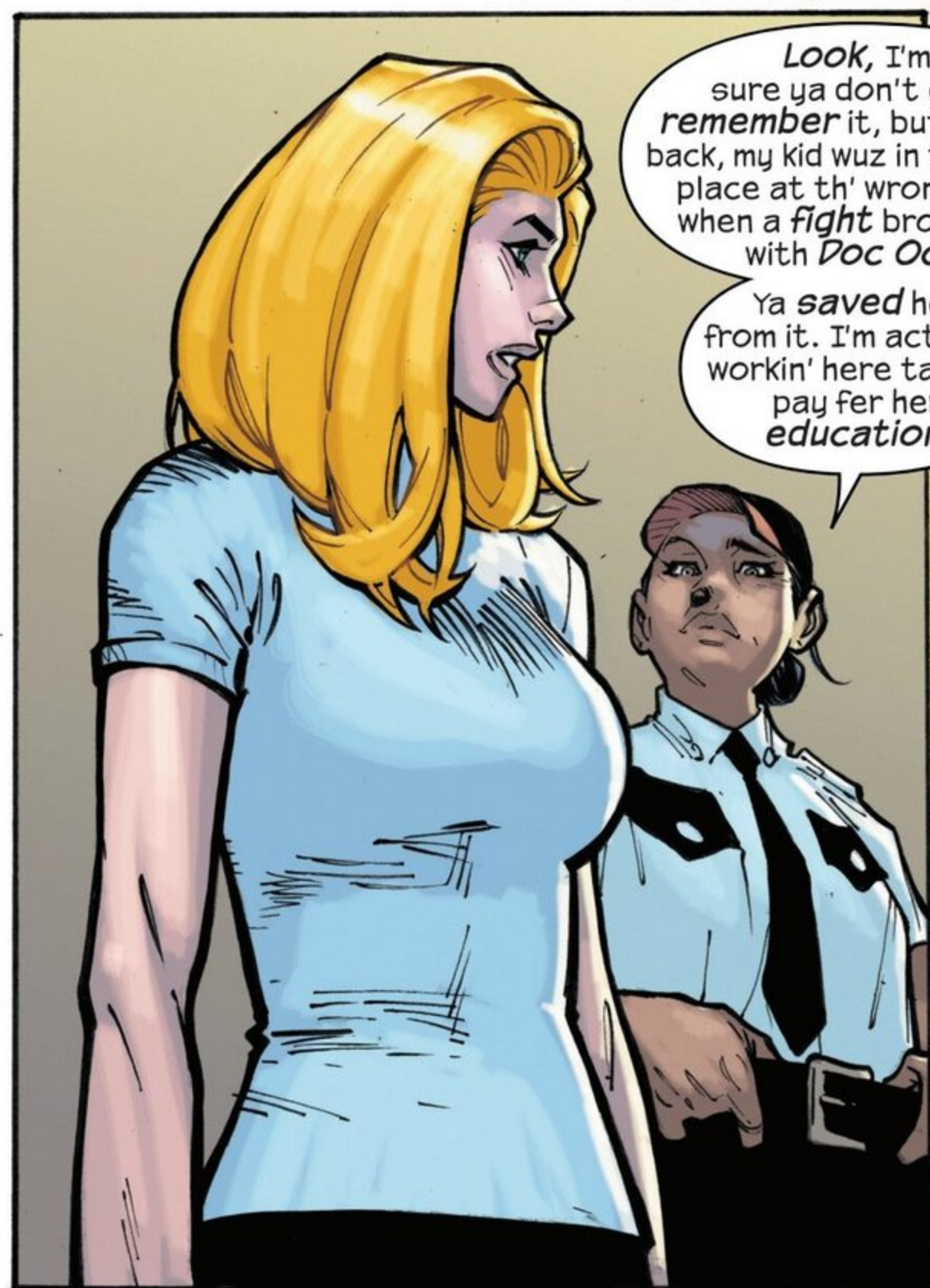


But Ben always says, "folks can surprise ya."

Lissen, Mrs. Fantastic--

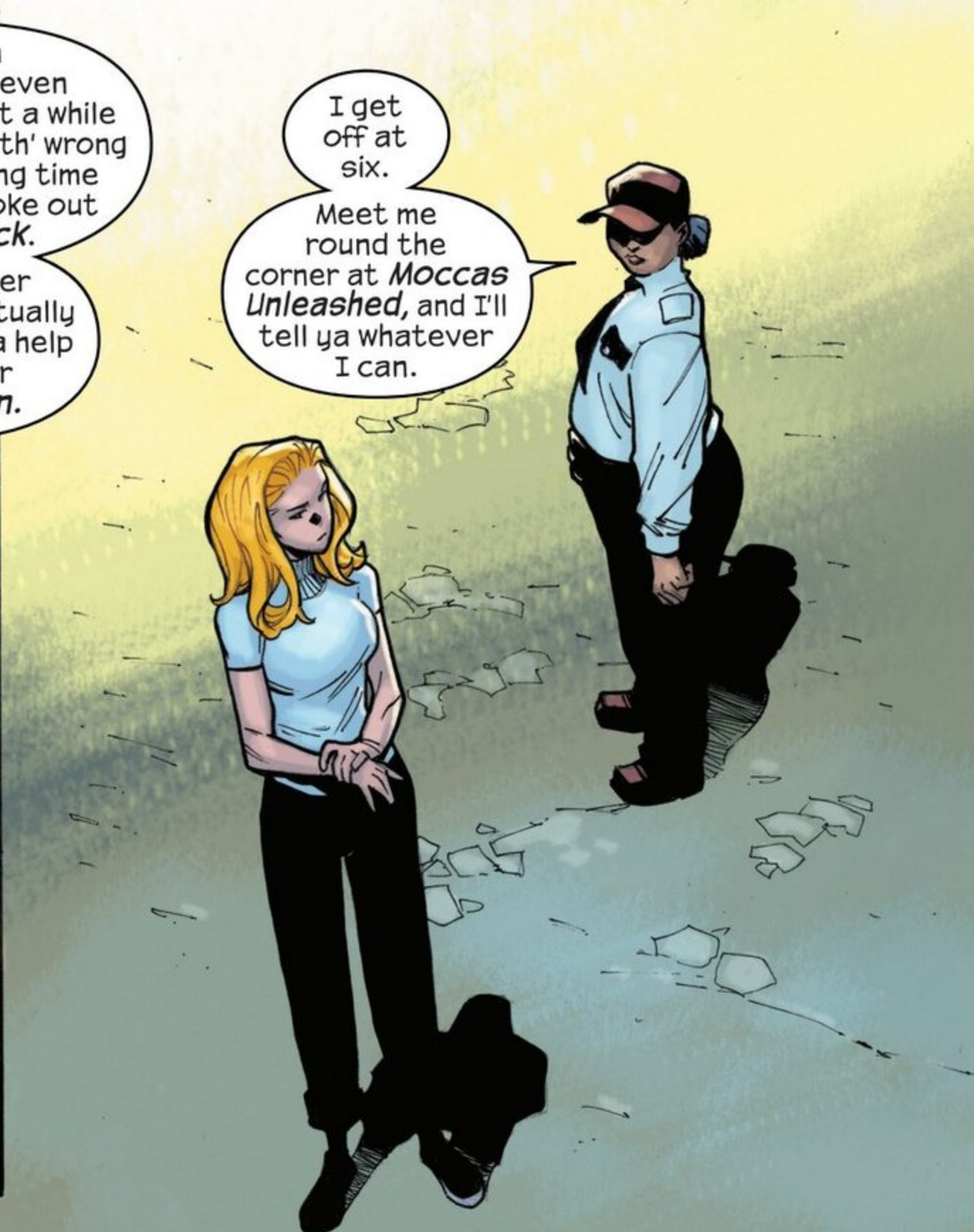
Sue.

Gracie. Management says we ain't s'posed ta talk ta *anyone* about this, but--



Look, I'm sure ya don't even *remember* it, but a while back, my kid wuz in th' wrong place at th' wrong time when a *fight* broke out with *Doc Ock*.

Ya *saved* her from it. I'm actually workin' here ta help pay fer her *education*.



I get off at six.

Meet me round the corner at *Moccas Unleashed*, and I'll tell ya whatever I can.



I got Gracie a coffee and waited. She was right on time.

I ain't stayin', Sue. They fired me.

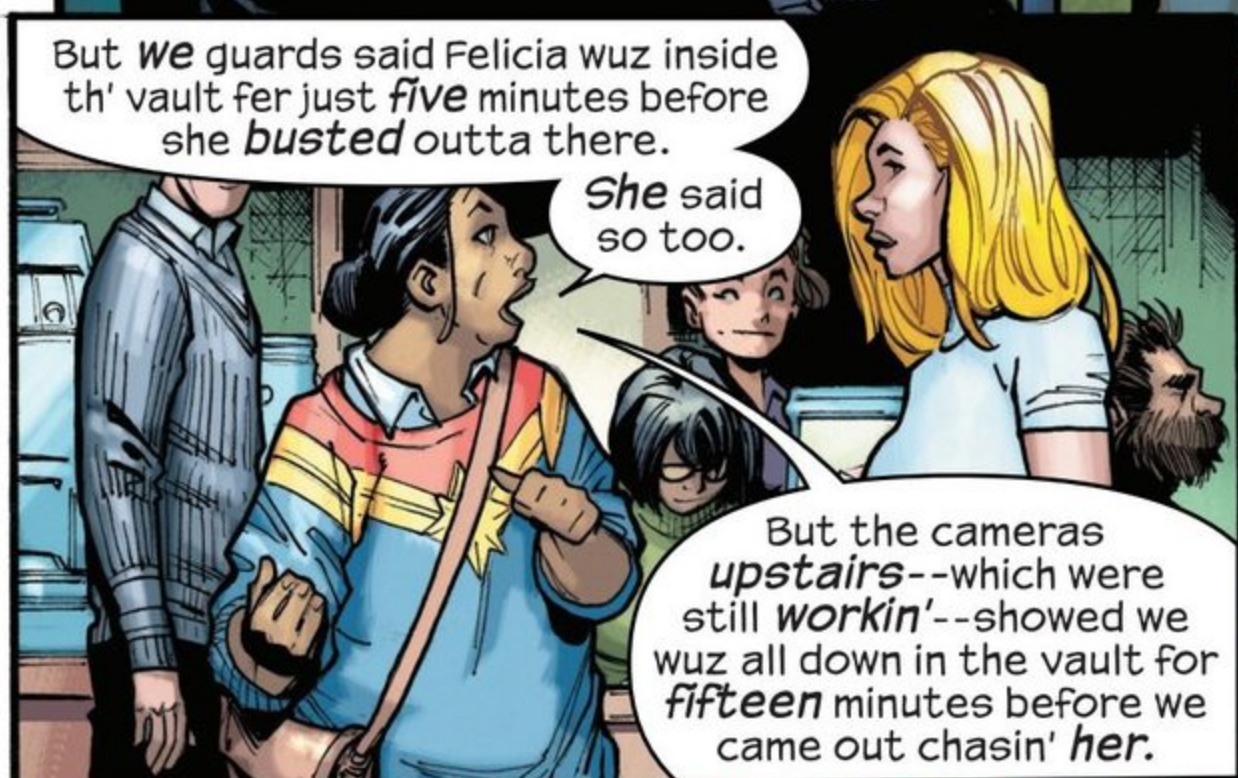


What, for *talkin'* to me? But--

No, fer *theft*. Turns out some 'a those box locks *had* been picked after all, *cat-burglar* style.

When Black Cat ran out of there, so did \$5000 worth of *jewelry*.

But--Gracie, that implicates *Felicia*, not you.



But *we* guards said Felicia wuz inside th' vault fer just *five* minutes before she *busted* outta there.

She said so too.

But the cameras *upstairs*--which were still *workin'*--showed we wuz all down in the vault for *fifteen* minutes before we came out chasin' *her*.



So with all 'a us tellin' th' same lie, bank figures we were in on th' heist. Fired us all an' reported us t' the *cops*.

But--that's not fair.

They don't care about *fair*--they care about employin' people they can *trust*, and that ain't us anymore.

See ya around, Sue.



Gracie--*was* it five minutes or fifteen?

I swore it was five--and it cost me my *job*. So hell, if they ever ask me again, I'm sayin' *fifteen*.

I ain't sure how, but Black Cat *used* me--and she's usin' *you* too, Sue.



Well...

...\$%&@.



Later, with the kids asleep, Alicia and I had a chance to talk.

I went back to Black Cat, and she *insisted* she didn't steal anything-- *and* that she was only there for *five* minutes.

So, no help there. And I don't think three *bank guards* conspired to steal just \$1666 each.

That's the crazy part: Felicia's *sincerity*. She really *wanted* me to *believe* her.



Do you? Believe her, I mean.

No.

...Maybe.

I don't know. I think she *could've* done it, absolutely I do--but it's so *sloppy*, so *stupid*--and all the proof is *circumstantial*.



Susie...
...you don't *like* Felicia, do you?



No, Allie, I don't. She's *capricious*, she's *selfish*, she encourages people to make the *worst* decisions, and she's--

--I don't know, *bad*! She's bad.



Susan Storm: smart, responsible, *good*. Felicia Hardy: none of the above.

Right. *Sure*.

Didn't she save the *entire island of Manhattan* a while back?

From a problem *she* created! You don't get credit for that!



Ah. I'll have to keep that in mind the next time the *Fantastic Four* save the city from *Annihilus*.



...Alicia, c'mon. She's the **Black Cat**. You really like her? You *trust* her?

I don't know her.

Well, there you go.

But from what I've *read*, she's someone resourceful and clever who's had a lot of breaks go the *wrong way*, who's had to *struggle*, who's paid the price for a *ton* of mistakes...



...and yet, despite it all, she still believes in *herself*.

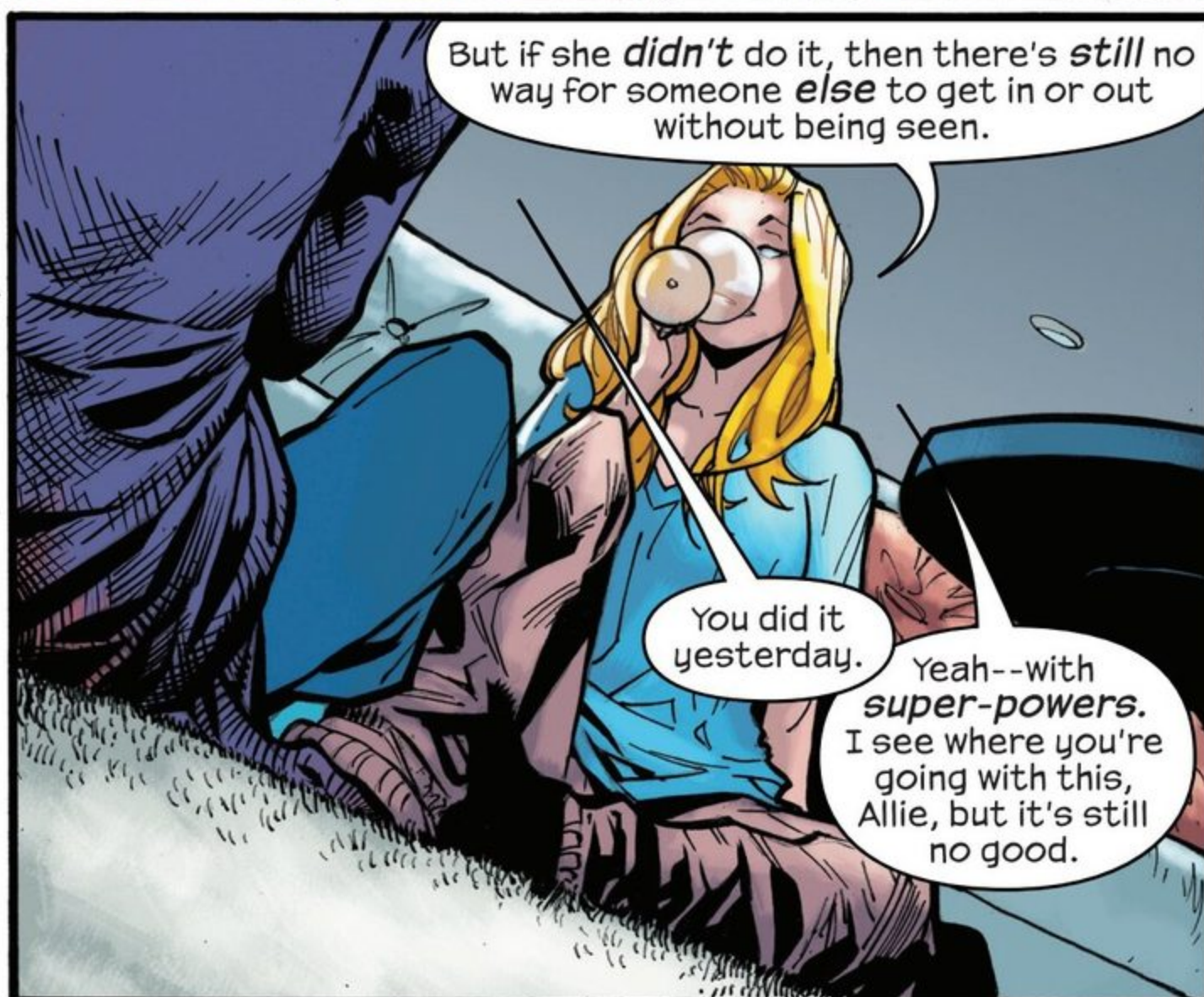


And I don't know about you, Susie, but people like that are *exactly* the kind of people that I like to know.

Damn it, Alicia, fine. *Fine*.

It's possible-- *possible*--that maybe I never gave Felicia a chance.

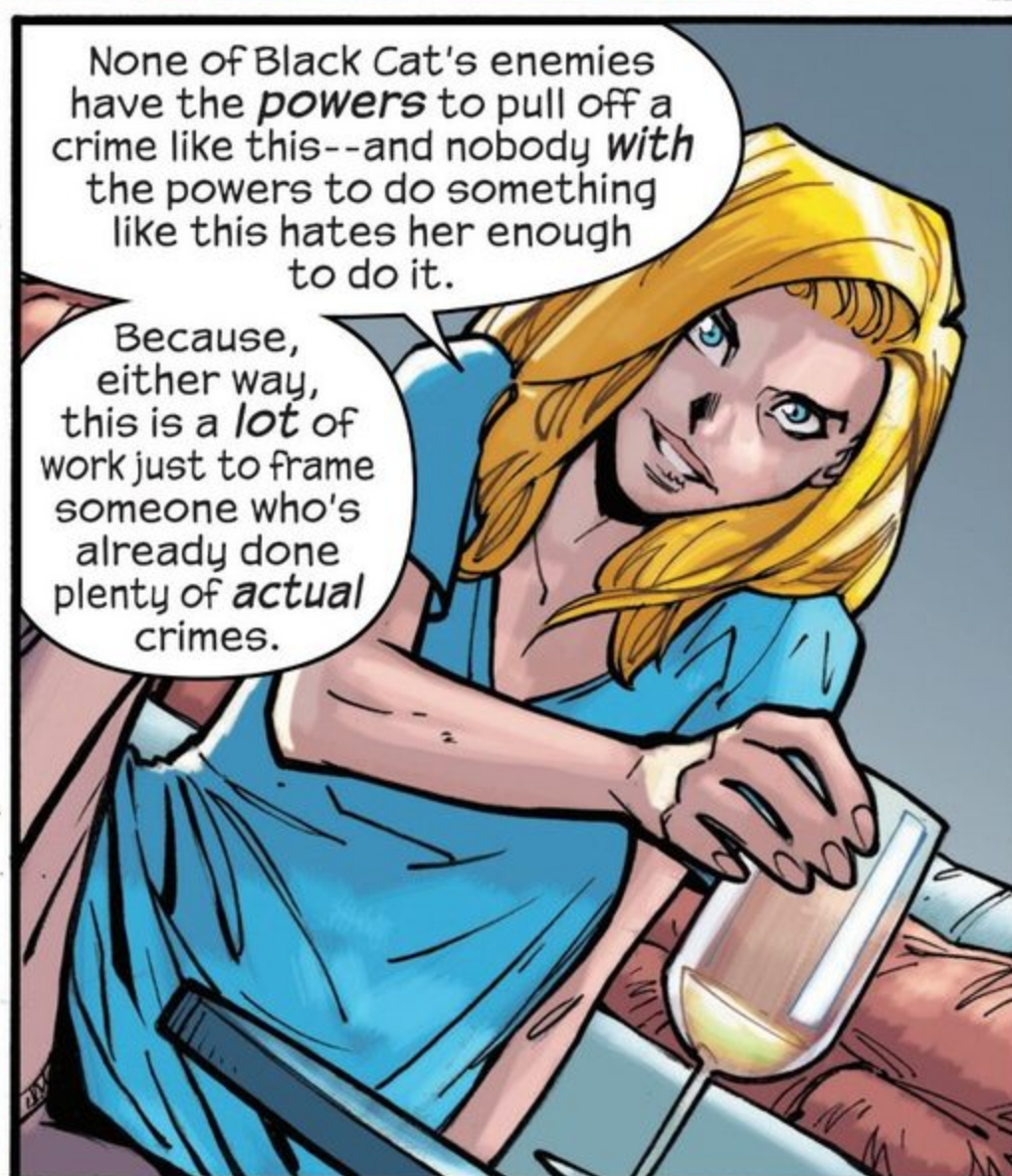
Thank you.



But if she *didn't* do it, then there's *still* no way for someone *else* to get in or out without being seen.

You did it yesterday.

Yeah--with *super-powers*. I see where you're going with this, Allie, but it's still no good.



None of Black Cat's enemies have the *powers* to pull off a crime like this--and nobody *with* the powers to do something like this hates her enough to do it.

Because, either way, this is a *lot* of work just to frame someone who's already done plenty of *actual* crimes.



So the guards didn't do it, nobody with powers *would've* done it, and people without powers *couldn't* have done it, which leaves us with-- *nothing*.

A'yup.
Except for Felicia.



Argh, I don't know! Maybe it's *exactly* what it looks like! Maybe Felicia made the bank guy have enough bad luck to accidentally smash his head in on his own desk.

Or, hell, maybe her misfortune powers backfired on *herself* and this is the result of that.

Everyone's luck runs out *sometime*.



Speaking of time, Allie--it's late: bedtime for invisible women.

Topo, what time is it?



It's 11:45 p.m.

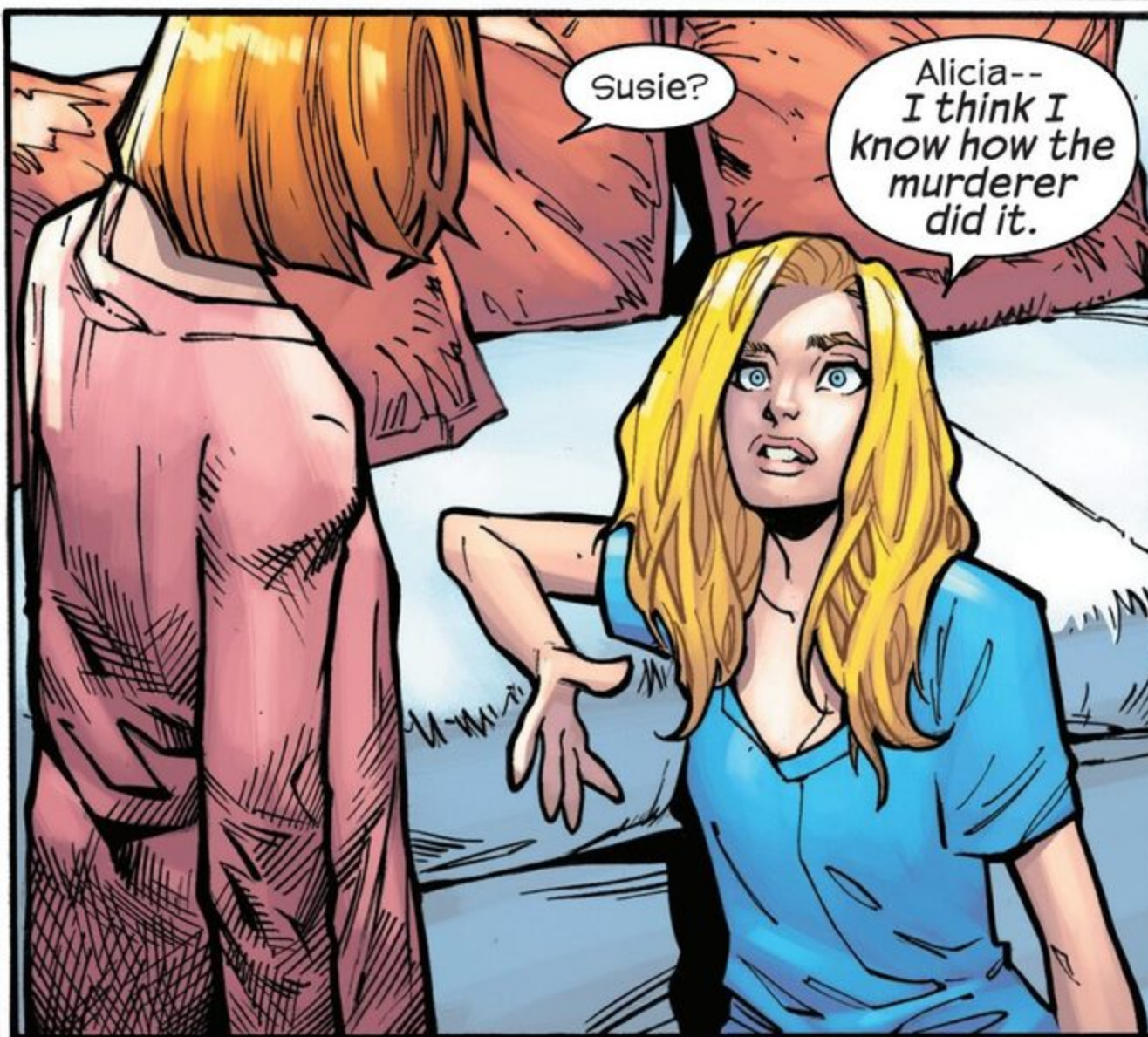


Yeah, I'll call it a night too. I--

...Wait.

Oh my god.

Oh my god.



Susie?

Alicia-- I think I know how the murderer did it.



I called a *Fantastic Four* press conference the next morning. I wouldn't say what it was about...

...which, of course, meant we got a ton of *live coverage*.

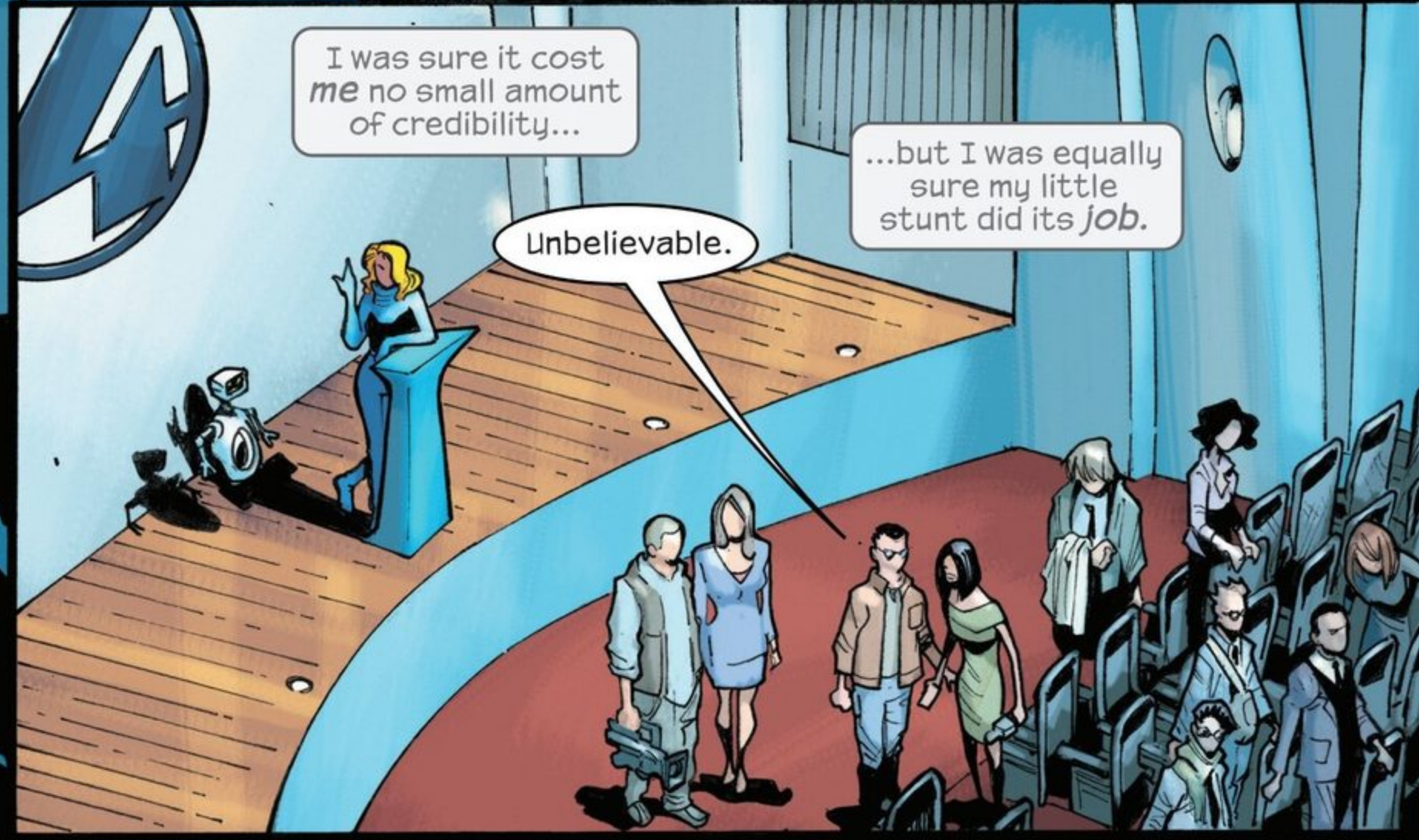
The FF are back from the Negative Zone, and I'm happy to announce... we brought *this* lovely stone back with us.

Reed's already mounted it on a ring. Isn't it beautiful?



Chet Owens, *World Enquirer*. Sorry, you called a *surprise press conference*... to show off a rock?

I did. I think it's a remarkable specimen, don't you?



I was sure it cost *me* no small amount of credibility...

Unbelievable.

...but I was equally sure my little stunt did its *job*.



The next step was to give Felicia what she wanted: *bail*.

Thanks, Sue. *Love* the diamond, by the way. You shouldn't have.

I didn't. But if you bend light, then you can change the *apparent* scale of anything...



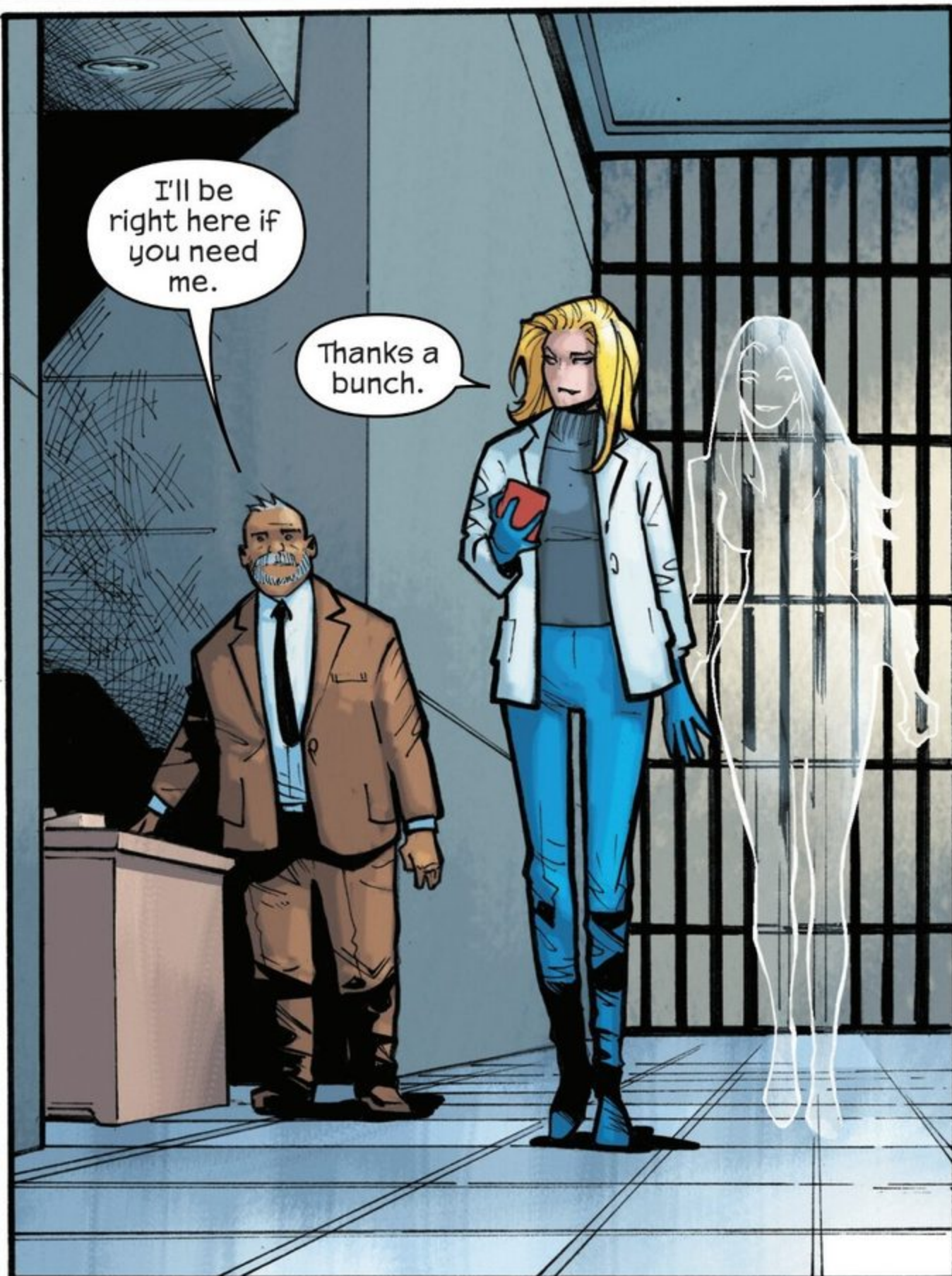
...including even the *tiniest* stones.



Damn. I can think of at least seven *very* fun ways I could use that power. So hey, does bailing me out mean you believe I'm innocent?

No.

But it does mean I've come up with a way for us *both* to find that out--together.



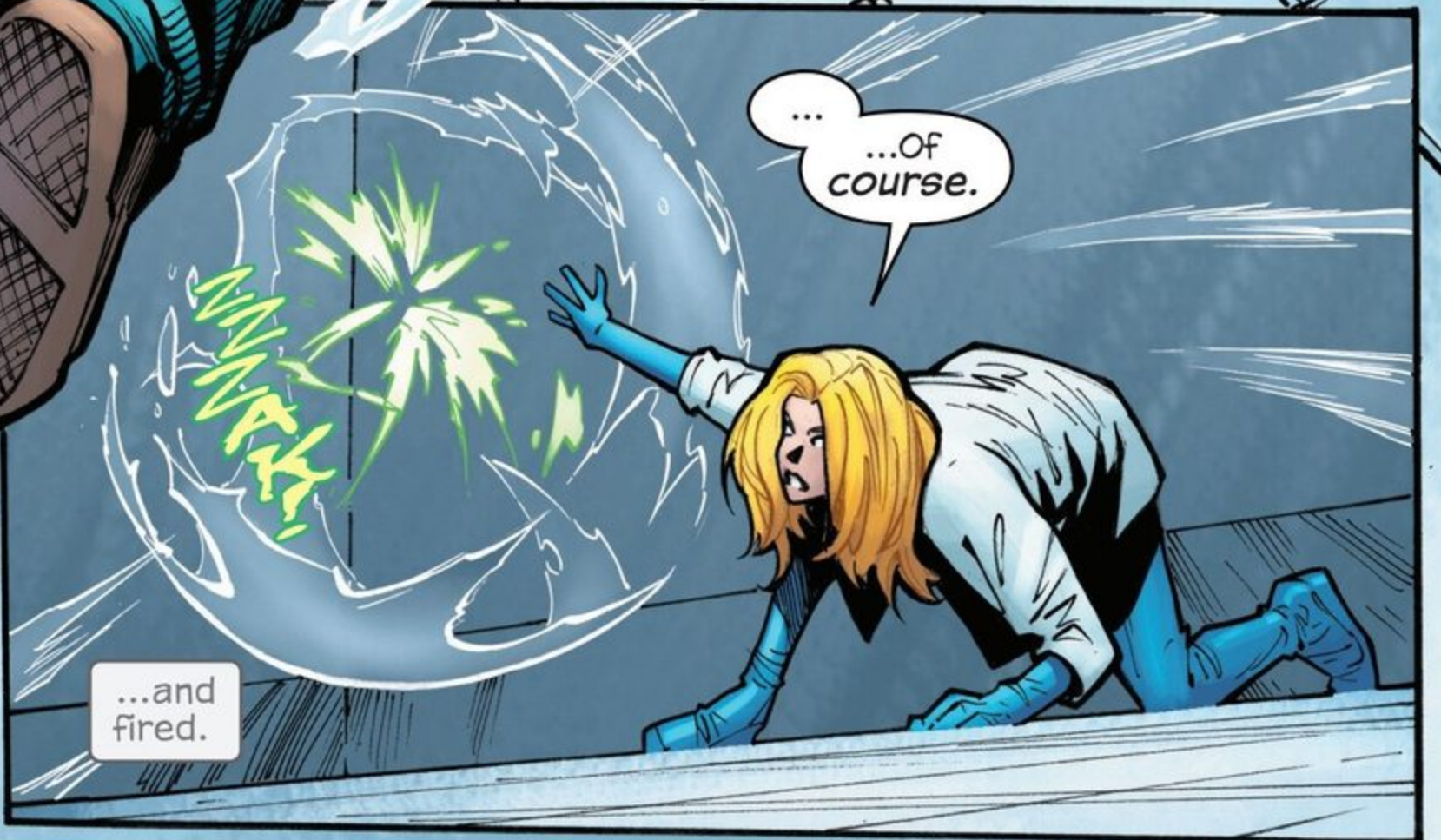




Bad
move.
I--

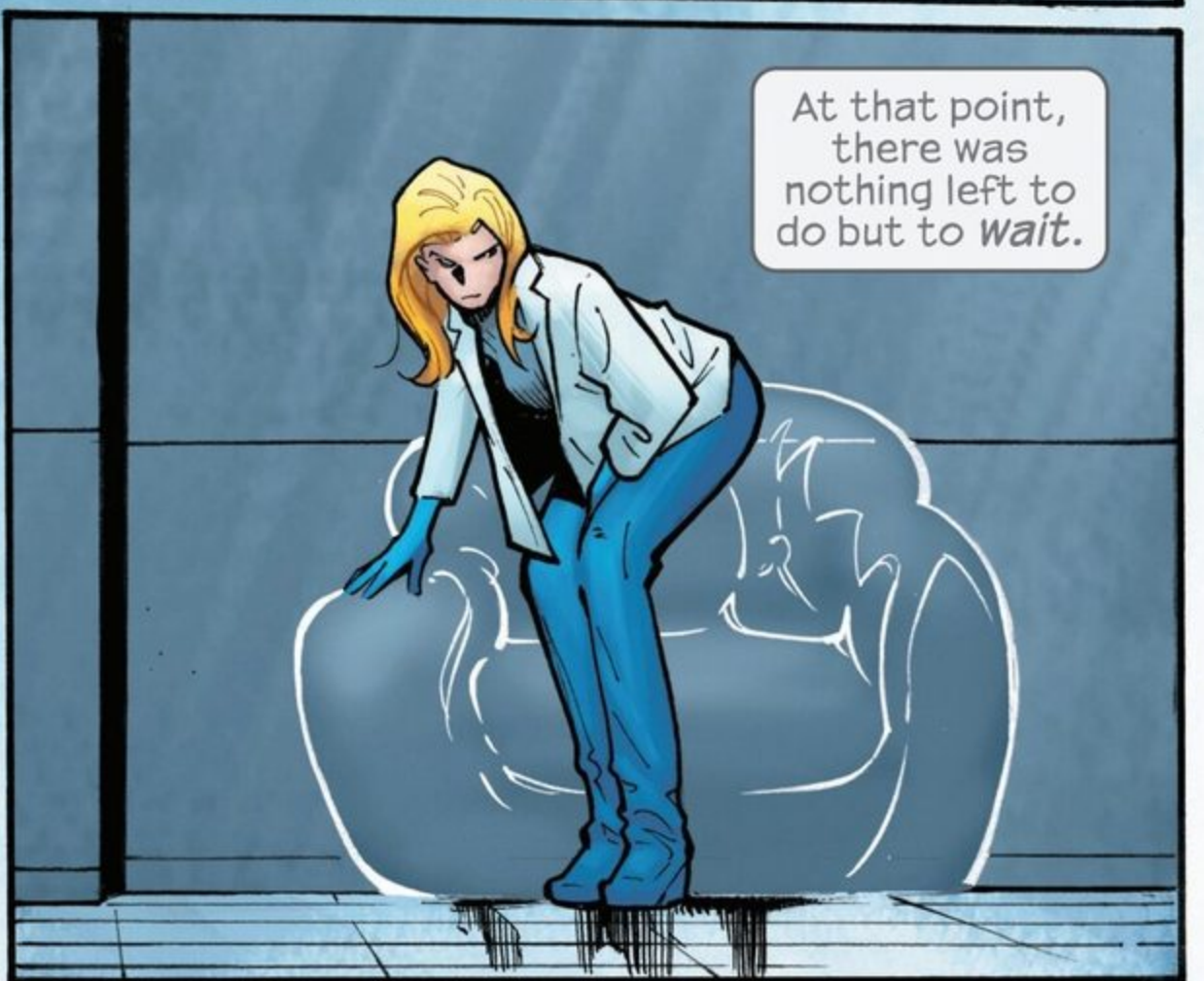


He aimed the
weapon at
himself...

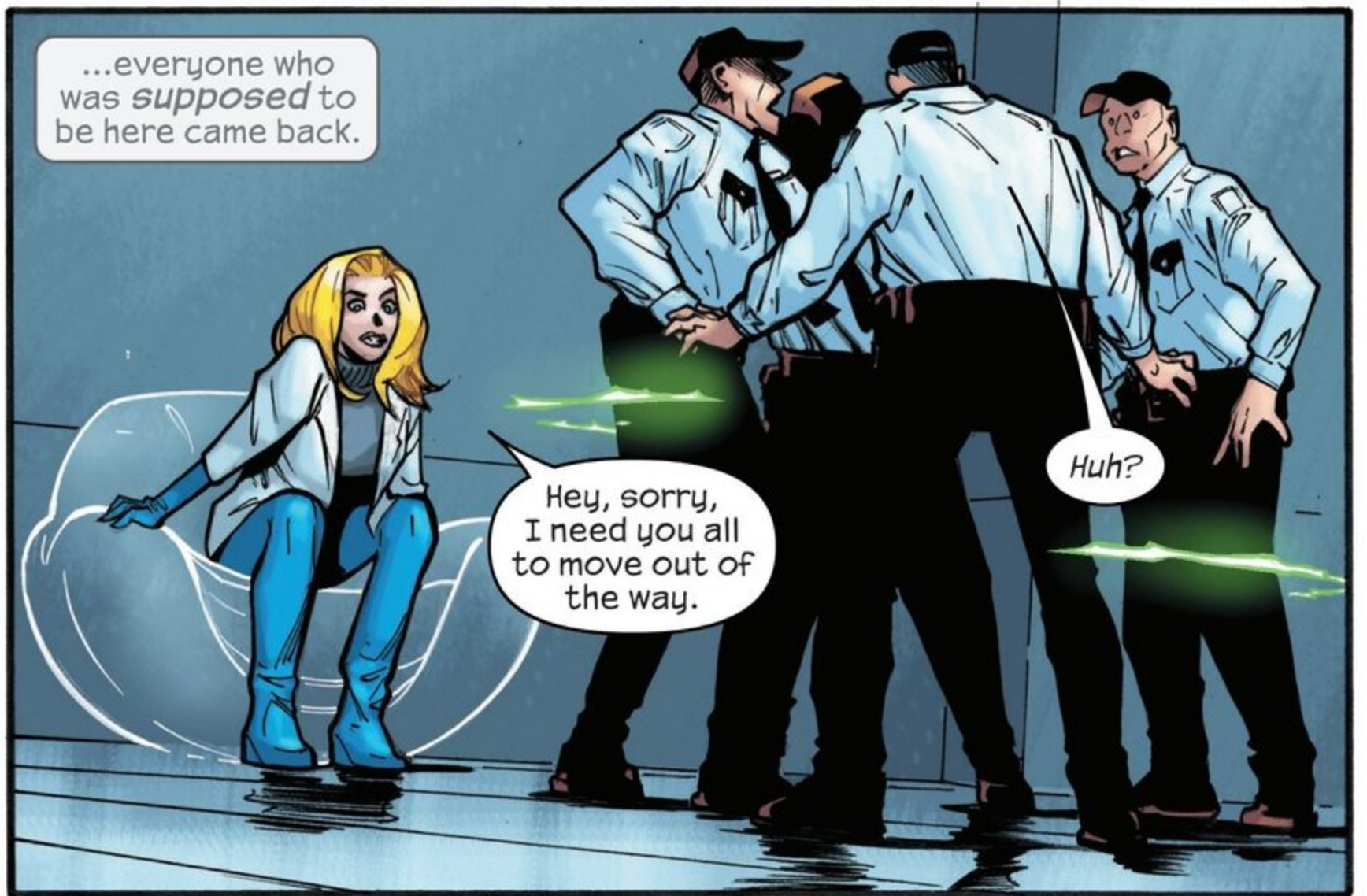
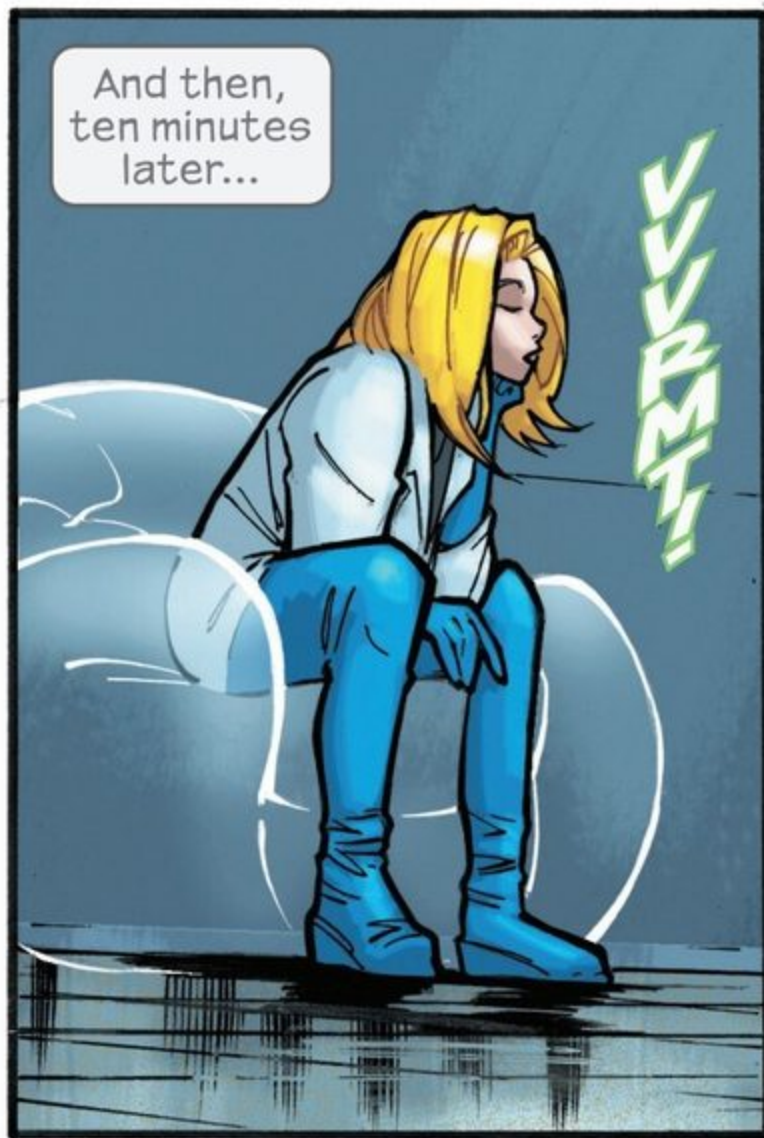


...
...Of
course.

...and
fired.



At that point,
there was
nothing left to
do but to *wait*.



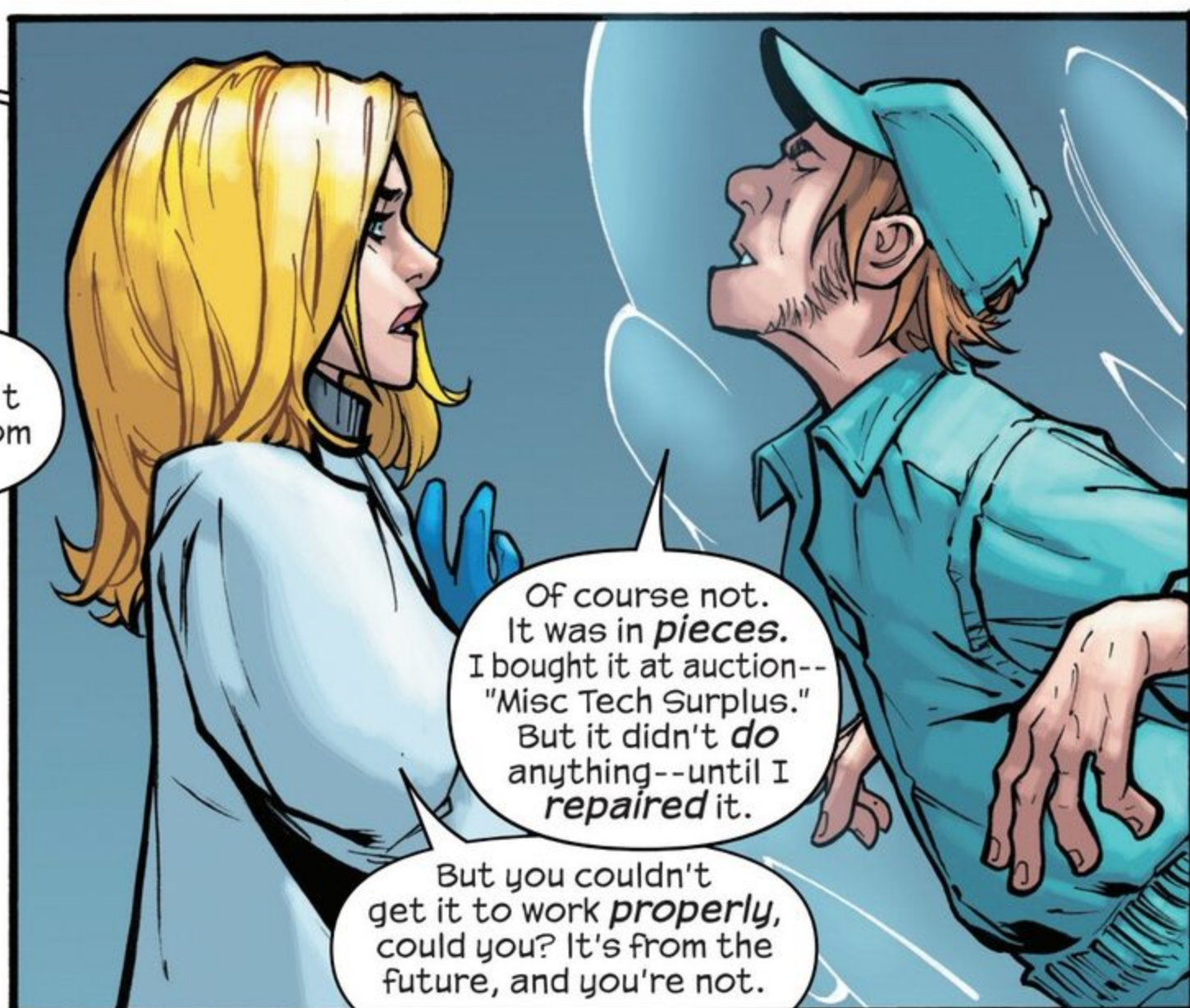


You--
repair
guy.

Fred.

That was
a time gun,
Fred--from *Kang
the Conqueror*.
I recognized
the "K" on it.

I know
you didn't
take it from
him.



Of course not.
It was in *pieces*.
I bought it at auction--
"Misc Tech Surplus."
But it didn't *do*
anything--until I
repaired it.

But you couldn't
get it to work *properly*,
could you? It's from the
future, and you're not.



Yeah.
I put it back
together as
best I could, but
couldn't get it
to 100%.

It only
sent people
ten minutes
into the
future.

"But then you realized how you could *use* that,
didn't you, Fred? You took the cameras outside
the vault down 'for repair' at work--and waited.



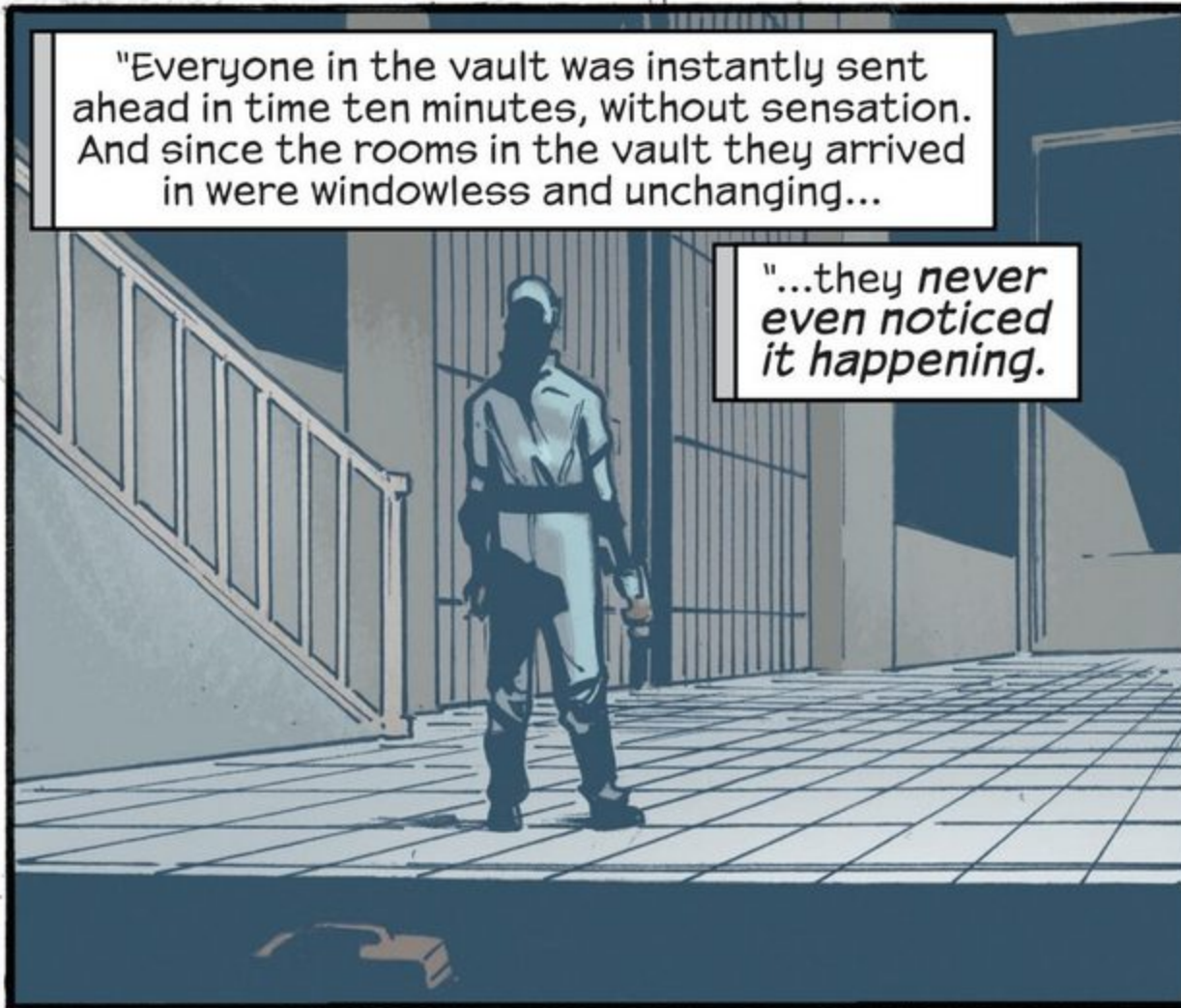
"And then someone *came in*,
and the vault was opened,
and you had your *chance*.

"You 'left'--waiting
in the stairs--and
then you fired.



"Everyone in the vault was instantly sent
ahead in time ten minutes, without sensation.
And since the rooms in the vault they arrived
in were windowless and unchanging...

"...they *never*
even noticed
it happening.





"You had *ten minutes* in the empty vault to pick any locks you wanted, to grab whatever valuables you found.

"Or so you *thought*."

"But while the time gun's beam had a *wide range*--it was still *limited*."



"Teller was in his *bathroom* when you fired, wasn't he? Just enough to be *outside* the gun's area of effect."

Hey!
Stop!

"He came out, none the wiser, and waited there for Felicia--"

"--only to surprise *you* when you were leaving."



"So you killed him."

"You killed to keep your *secret*, to ensure you could run this heist over and *over* again."



"And then you *ran*."

"You must've thought at some point to *hide* your take in your pockets, so you could stroll out of the bank before the murder was even *discovered*."



"But it wasn't enough. Your take was too *small*--not enough to make up for *murder*."

"So when you saw the chance for a final big score, enough to put you right..."

"...you took it."



In the end, Fred confessed--and Felicia went free.

It was actually Alicia asking what time it was that gave me the key. She made me realize that with the right *assistive technology*...

...anyone could pull off this heist, even *without* powers.

Thank you, both of you. You have no idea how much this means to me. I don't have a lot of--

...Well, anyway. The guard got her job back?

She did, yeah. Gracie and all the rest. Huh. Didn't know you cared about the *little guy*, Felicia.

Aw, we're all little guys in some way or another. I love me a little guy.



Well, in any case--thanks again. I should get back to my *apartment*, and--

Felicia, wait.

Yeah?

I think Sue has *something* she wants to say.

...Yeah, it's just--you don't have to leave if you don't want to, that's all. I thought, I don't know, maybe we could *celebrate* a little.

If you wanted to, I mean.



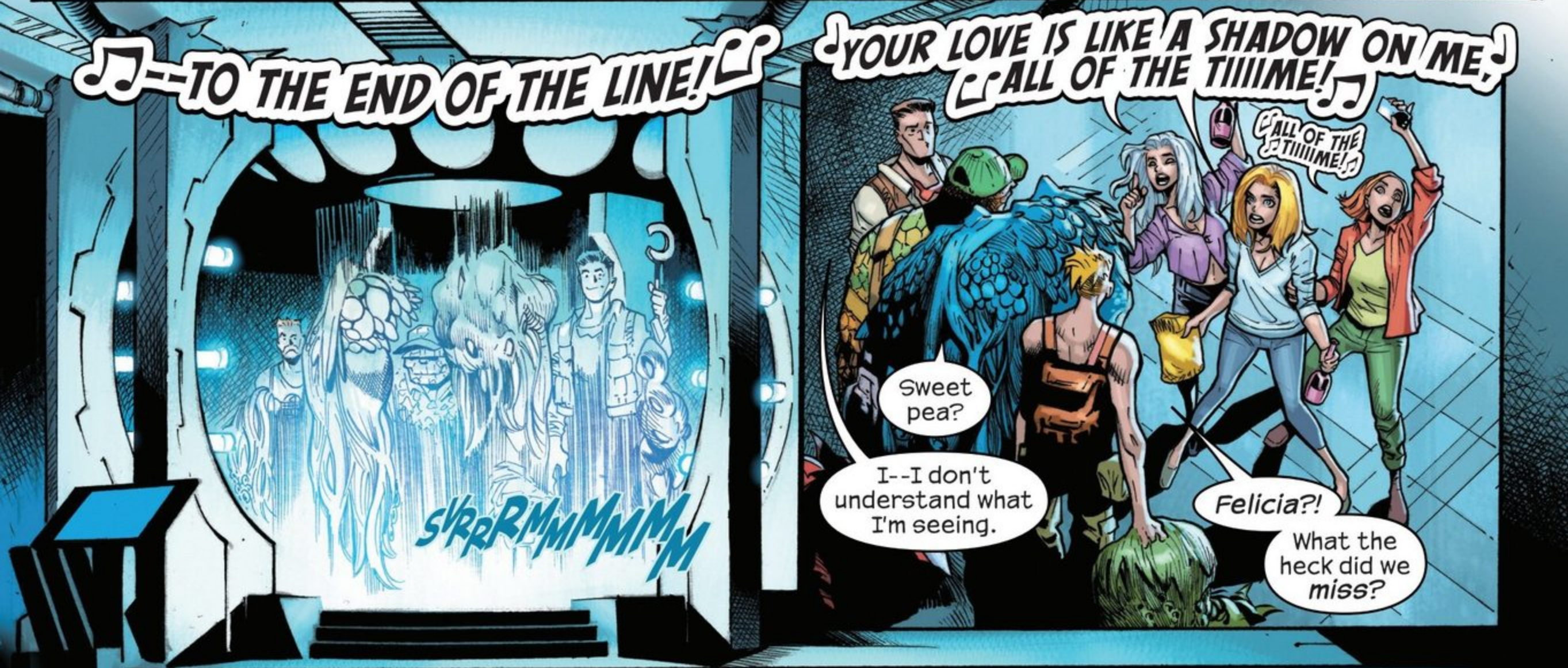
Felicia... do you like champagne?

♪ TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE IT! ♪



♪ TO THE END OF THE LINE! ♪

♪ YOUR LOVE IS LIKE A SHADOW ON ME, ♪
♪ ALL OF THE TIME! ♪



You're *teleportin'* somewhere?

Vegas, babe!!
Girls' trip starts now!!

Left a note for you on the table! You and the boys are babysitting, thanks sorry *byeeeee*!

And that, honey, should fill you in on everything you missed. I hope you had a good trip. Have fun while we're away, and love you forever.

I'll be back with my new friend in a few days.

XOXO, Sue



Fantastic Four Fan Page

Dear FF Team,

First, I have to mention how much I enjoyed watching the new *Fantastic Four: First Steps* movie! Being an FF fan since 1973, I was not disappointed. The film got everything correct. I was impressed with Galactus, and he was exactly how I imagined him to be. I am pleased that the FF will finally get to participate in future Avengers films. Finally!

Second, FANTASTIC FOUR #2 was terrific! The beautiful cover design was great, depicting each FF member trapped in a different time zone. The plot so far is moving along nicely. Does Doctor Doom have access to the Negative Zone? Will the FF encounter other heroes or villains whom Doom has sent elsewhere in time?

Finally, I have been out of touch with the comics, so I have no idea if these villains have recently reappeared. Any chance we can see any of the following baddies: the Mad Thinker, the original Frightful Four, Blastaar, the Mole Man and maybe some villains who have mostly fought other super-hero teams, like the Wrecking Crew?

Kevin Roberts
King City, California

The Mad Thinker has recently been a part of doings over in AVENGERS, Kevin, and the Mole Man was in these pages not long ago. As for your other villain requests, stay tuned!

Dear FF Team,

I love this book! I think this is the best comic on the stands, and Ramos is a fantastic addition to the team! He and North really complement each other, and I swear Johnny's mustache gets bushier every page.

Every month, FANTASTIC FOUR goes to the top of my stack, and every issue, I find myself thinking, "How are they going to get themselves out of this one?!"

This current duel with Doom has me at the edge of my seat. I loved Doom revealing that he's been save scumming to beat the Fantastic Four after mocking Reed for revealing how he had gotten the upper hand. Pot calling the kettle black, Doom?

Finn J. Harrison

P.S. I also really liked Johnny's coffee song. Was this an intentional callback to North's UNBEATABLE SQUIRREL GIRL? Or just a fun coincidence?

Some believe that there aren't any coincidences, Finn, there's only enemy action. But thanks for reading!

Dear FF Team:

Hahaha! You fools!

By telling Doom of your mistake when naming your colorist, cover artist and inker on issue #1, you have given Doom the secret to defeat you!

Now Doom will use his towering intellect and mastery of mysticism to go back in time and erase your mistake from existence, thereby conquering all!!!

Doom has spoken!

Also, Doom loves the book.

All Hail Doom!

Sincerely,
V.V. Doom

Emperor/Sorcerer Supreme

Appreciate you taking care of that for us, Victor. I feel better already!

Hello FANTASTIC FOUR team,

The first comic I ever read was the 2022 run of FANTASTIC FOUR, and I still think it's my favorite comic run ever, let alone favorite FF run.

I'm SO glad that Ryan North is also writing for the new 2025 run. I've read issues #1 and #2, and they're already amazing and just as high quality as the 2022 FF books. Very excited to read more! Also, oh my GOD, the art is breathtaking. The giant red sun with the destroyed landscape--it just looks so good.

Jessica Febbo

Happy to hear that you've been enjoying our efforts, Jessica. And a special shout-out to color artist Edgar Delgado for those suns.

Dear FF Team,

I've been a FANTASTIC FOUR reader for over 45 years (!) and, in that time, have enjoyed countless adventures with the FF. That said, I've never felt compelled to get in touch--until now! Having just finished reading FF #2, I thought I had to write and commend everyone working on the current book for a brilliant time-traveling adventure story--keep up the good work!

Paul Adams
UK

And that's going to do it for us this time out! Next issue, we begin a big multipart storyline titled "The Invincible Woman." Now, what do you think that could mean, eh? Let's find out together in thirty days!

Tom B
9/9/25



#6

Next

© 2025 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.